

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-5, 11, 19 and 23-36 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 11 and 19 are independent. Claims 1-5, 11 and 19 have been amended. Claims 23-36 are new. Claims 6-10, 12-18 and 20-22 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification and Drawings, specifically Figures 6-9, 14-15 and 17-19. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which the Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-2, 6-9, 11-13 and 19-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,940,076 to Sommers et al. (hereinafter, merely "Sommers") in view of European Patent Application No. 0609819 to Gilligan et al. (hereinafter, merely "Gilligan").

Claims 3-5, 10, 14 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Sommers, in view of Gilligan and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,909,443 to Robertson et al. (hereinafter, merely "Robertson").

III. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

"An information processing apparatus, comprising:

a first generation means for generating a first image for browsing corresponding to first data;

a second generation means for generating a second image for browsing corresponding to second data;

a first designation means for designating display positions of the first image and the second image along a virtual line so that the first image overlaps at least a portion of the second image; and

a first display control means for displaying the first image and the second image at the display positions designated by the first designation means." (emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, Sommers relates to a method and apparatus for providing a graphical user interface for an electronic device. A communication device including a display for presenting information to a user whereby options/features are displayed in user selectable fields located alone in an arc on the display. Each of the selectable fields highlights an application of the electronic device which represent subsets of available applications. Applications and associated graphics are scrolled through via a clockwise or counterclockwise direction along the arc.

As understood by Applicants, Gilligan relates to a manual input device for controlling a cursor on a computer display (e.g., a mouse), which has a supplementary control

device comprising a displaceable knob mounted on one side of the mouse housing, with the supplementary control being provided for concurrent scrolling and pointing. The supplementary control device generates a supplementary control signal in response to operation of the knob, which is designed to be operated by the thumb of the same hand, which holds the mouse. An associated method is provided for dynamically setting scrolling parameters through detection of pre-defined patterns in the cursor's trail, at the same time the mouse is operated. The scrolling direction is set in correspondence to the dominant axis present in the cursor's trail.

Applicants submit that Sommers and Gilligan, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the above-identified features of claim 1. Specifically, Applicants submit that there is no teaching or suggestion of an information processing apparatus comprising a first generation means for generating a first image for browsing corresponding to first data; a second generation means for generating a second image for browsing corresponding to second data; a first designation means for designating display positions of the first image and the second image along a virtual line so that the first image for browsing overlaps at least a portion of the second image; and a first display control means for displaying the first image and the second image at the display positions designated by the first designation means, as recited in claim 1.

Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claims 11 and 19 are also believed to be patentable.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 11 and 19 are patentable.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the above-identified reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION


In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portion or portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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